

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Three local institutions of higher education have been awarded grants under the Department of Education's Student Support Services Program.

"With college degrees becoming more of a necessity for high-paying careers, we must make sure we have support programs in place for those students are entering college at a comparative disadvantage," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "I'm a staunch supporter of this program and I'm pleased that our Central Coast students will get the support they need to graduate and enter the workforce."

Local institutions receiving funds:

California State University-Monterey Bay - \$255,505 Hartnell College - \$226,600 Monterey Peninsula College - \$304,351

The purpose of the Student Support Services Program is to provide academic and support services to low-income, first-generation or disabled college students to increase retention and graduation rates and facilitate transfers from two-year to four-year colleges.

Funds can be used for a variety of services including instruction in basic study skills; tutorial services; counseling; mentoring and special services for students with limited English proficiency; assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in four-year institutions and guidance on career options.

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